



**Petonito's Pastry Shop**  
**190 Main St, East Haven, CT 06512**

February 18, 2014

**Testimony IN FAVOR of HB 5069 An Act Concerning Low Wage Employers**  
**From Mark Petonito, Owner if Petonito's Pastry Shop**

To Representative Tercyak, Senator Osten and the other members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employees,

I write to you in support of HB 5069, AAC Low Wage Employees. This kind of legislation is the right thing to do for the workers of these corporations, for the taxpayers of this state, and for small, local businesses like mine.

Let me tell you a little about my business. Petonito's Pastry Shop has been in business for over 60 years. I took the business over from my father some time ago, and we specialize in wedding cakes and other sweet treats.

We treat our employees decently because it is what they deserve and it helps our business thrive. No one here makes minimum wage. We have about a half dozen employees. The full-time folks get healthcare, and everybody gets paid sick time for illnesses or medical issues. Last week when it snowed so badly that we had to keep the shop closed, we paid folks for that day because I know they rely on the income.

If my small business can afford decent wages and some benefits, then the large, big box corporations covered by this legislation certainly can too. Instead, we see too many of these companies paying poverty wages and providing no benefits to their employees. In turn, those employees rely on social assistance programs to survive. These profitable companies are essentially outsourcing their employment costs to the rest of us – so that taxpayers and small businesses like myself subsidize their profits. This is wrong and it needs to be addressed.

I know profit margins, and wage levels, and the costs of doing business. If 50¢ or so more per hour is going to put your corporation out of business, you don't have a successful business model. The way these companies treat their employees is just terrible, and its all so they can make a little more in profit.

Please support HB 5069 to hold these profitable corporations accountable to paying a decent wage. It's what's fair.

Thank you.